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Newspapers as indicated.

PEIPING DIRECTIVE REVEALS TIMBER SHORTAGE;  
WRITERS SCORE WASTEFUL EXPLOITATION OF TIMBER RESOURCES

An apparently serious shortage of timber resources in China is revealed in a directive of the Administration Council of the Central People's Government, 13 August 1951, ordering retrenchment in timber consumption by all government agencies and substitution of other materials wherever possible.

Local governments from the Northeast to the Southwest are charged by writers with wasteful, illegal, and fraudulent attrition of the national timber resources. State-operated companies are alleged to be likewise involved. Among the charges advanced are: poor planning, negligence in protection services, reckless exploitation for excessive profits, forced purchases from peasants, seizure without remuneration, misuse of specially valuable and scarce types, and flagrant disregard for national quotas for cutting and use.

One report during the period gives a somewhat opposite picture of progress of Northeast forestry, reporting that 83 percent of the 1951 goal had been met.

PEIPING ORDERS ECONOMY IN TIMBER USE -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 17 Aug 51

Industrial expansion with consequent increase in timber needs led the Administration Council of the Central People's Government to issue a timber conservation directive on 13 August as follows:

1. Governments on all levels shall carefully screen all requests for timber allotments to prevent padding of requisitions and wasteful use.
2. No organization allotted timber shall sell any of it.

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3. No local government shall cut any timber beyond the allotment made by the Central People's Government.
4. No state enterprise, government organization, military unit, or school shall on any pretext whatever cut and sell any timber for profit.
5. All civil and military government organizations shall hold their timber requests to the irreducible minimum, substituting other materials wherever possible.
6. All timber users shall, in so far as possible without jeopardizing construction, use inferior woods such as poplar, willow, basswood, etc.
7. Ships' masts, telephone poles, construction scaffolding materials, etc., shall be treated to prevent rot.
8. All areas using wood and charcoal for fuel shall change to coal wherever coal is available.
9. Encouragement shall be given to the invention of wood substitutes, the use of plywood, and the planting of quick-growing trees such as fir, eucalyptus, Pawlonia imperialis, poplar, and ash.
10. All paper manufacturers shall attempt the use of materials other than wood. All paper plant construction and expansion must have the approval of the Central People's Government.
11. All inspection agencies shall carefully watch all government agencies using timber, rewarding those which follow this directive and punishing violators.
12. Executive officers of all organizations with large timber requirements shall hold conferences to scale down requirements and take definite actions to implement economy. Timber austerity pledges should be included in all patriotic pacts to build up a mass movement toward timber economy.

WRITER CASTIGATES NORTHEAST FORESTRY AUTHORITIES -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao  
25 Aug 51

In a number of provinces in the Northeast, provincial forestry officials are securing permits for lumbering operations, ostensibly to provide lumber for provincial government projects, and then selling the timber for cash to bolster sagging budgets. Agents have been sent as far afield as Tientsin to promote these sales. Some 30 deputations representing Heilungkiang, Sungkiang, and Kirin have been engaged in such sales promotion projects. Moreover, the knowledge that such supplies of timber are available has led representatives of civil and military government organizations and schools in China proper to invade the Northeast to buy timber which they then resell at a handsome profit. These activities have often upset the regulated prices.

From 1948 to 1951, 729,000 cubic meters of timber have been thus mishandled. The lumbering methods employed are unscientific, no consideration being given to the future development of the cut-over forest areas. The long-range forestry control program of the central government is thus disrupted. --  
Lin Li

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CORRESPONDENT SCORES SUNGKIANG FORESTRY OFFICIALS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 25 Aug 51

A member of the staff of the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry of the Northeast People's Government writing to the editor deplores the lack of diligence of the forestry officials in the Mu-tan-chiang area of Sungkiang. He cites two cases. In one case, out of 30,000 pieces of timber cut under a certain contract only half were of the specified dimensions. The rest were unusable. In the other case, a contract for 15,000 pieces of timber was handled in the same slack manner. Stumps were cut too high and no system was followed as to the selection of the timber to be cut. More than 1,000 cubic meters of timber was thus wasted. The first case occurred in 1950 and the second in 1951. The authorities learned nothing from the first experience to make them cautious in the second case. They should be dealt with by law.

LIAOTUNG AUTHORITIES FAIL TO PROTECT FORESTS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 6 Sep 51

Owing to the negligence of the responsible authorities in Liaotung Province, 70,000 trees of the 10-15 year-old planted deciduous pines and black pines were burned over in that province. Considering the comparatively small amount of planted timber in the country, this is a serious loss. The authorities responsible should be dealt with for their negligence in not organizing a better forest-protection service.

DEPLORES IMPROPER USE OF VALUABLE TIMBER -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 21 Aug 51

Red pine constitutes about 9.8 percent of the total timber stand of the Northeast. Because of its superior quality there is a great demand for it. Unfortunately, it is too often requested for purposes which could just as well be served by more common woods. Thus, there is a great waste of this scarce material. In Szechwan, are found a number of types of wood especially useful for cabinet work because of their hardness, fine grain, and resistance to rot and insects. Many parts of buses, streetcars and trains require this sort of wood. There are at present no large natural forests of these woods and 50 years of growth are required for trees to attain one foot in diameter. Unfortunately, much of this timber is now being used to build warehouses and barracks and in some cases even for fuel. Care throughout the country should give attention to the preservation and afforestation of these special types, on a long range basis, seeking to avoid local exploitation and temporary policies.

NATIONAL AFFORESTATION PROGRAM EXCEEDED GOAL -- Canton, Nan-fang Jih-pao, 27 Sep 51

Peiping, 26 September (Hsin-hua) -- The 1950 national afforestation program resulted in the planting of 2,850,000 mou [ $\frac{1}{1}$  mou equals 1/6 acre] to trees, not including 300 million trees planted by the people outside the official program. The 1951 goal is a 70-percent increase over 1950. Up to the present, 83 percent of the goal has been realized.

Only 5 percent of China's land area is forest land. This is far from sufficient for her needs. Afforestation, therefore, is most important. Since afforestation is a long-range program, a much more immediately important one is the protection of existing forest resources. During the last 2 years, much has been achieved in this direction. Over 2,000 forest protection teams and committees have been organized. In the Northeast, special forestry police are on duty.

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The chief activity in state-controlled lumbering has been in the Northeast and in Inner Mongolia. Because of controls and improved methods employed in these areas, a saving of over 700,000 cubic meters of timber has been realized.

Active measures are being taken to build up a trained corps of forestry workers where heretofore there has been only a small group interested in forestry problems. During the last 2 years, national and provincial forestry officials have worked hard to provide training for forestry workers. The Northeast now has 2,000 cadres who understand methods of forest investigation and timber survey.

In the Northwest, a large number of cadres and students are making forest surveys. In the south and east, many university professors and students have entered this work. During the past 2 years, throughout the country, over 3,000 cadres and 6,000 students have been trained. Special forestry schools and forestry departments of universities have been expanding their activities.

NORTHEAST AFFORESTATION PLAN TO ADD 50 PERCENT TO ARABLE AREA -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 31 Aug 51

Areas in western Manchuria equaling one half the total cultivated area of the region, now too arid for satisfactory cultivation, will be restored to high productivity when a 12-year plan for windbreak afforestation has been completed. An area of 8,660,000 hectares is involved in the plan. Three provinces, Liaosi, Kirin, and Heilungkiang, and part of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region are affected.

Hsiens affected are Hsin-min, Chang-wu, K'ang-p'ing, Fa-k'u, and Shuan-liao in Liao-hsi Province; Ch'ang-ling, Nung-an, Fu-yü, and Ch'ien-an, and Kuo-erh-lo-ssu-ch'ien Banner in Kirin Province; Tan-yü, K'ai-t'ung, T'ao-nan, T'ao-an, An-kuang, Chen-lai, Ta-lai, and T'ai-lai in Heilungkiang Province; also Khorchin East Wing North, and Khorchin East Wing Center banners of the Jerim League; and K'ai-lu and T'ung-liao hsiens in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region for a total of 22 hsiens and banners. With the exception of the heights dividing the headwaters of the Sungari and Liao rivers, the whole area is level as far as the eye can reach.

During the overintensive, uneconomical cultivation under the Japanese and KMT regimes the soil was loosened and blown away by the prevailing winds in winter and spring until only the gravelly subsoil is left.

An experimental project of windbreak afforestation undertaken some 20 years ago in Fu-yü Hsien, Kirin Province, has revealed the possibilities of such activity. The trees planted then are now some 10 meters high. Land cultivated behind the protection of this belt of trees has shown a marked increase in productivity. Kaoliang production has increased from 319 kilograms to 639 kilograms per hectare, soybean production from 216 to 432 kilograms, corn production from 363 to 654 kilograms, millet from 252 to 418 kilograms, and oats from 370 to 740 kilograms per hectare. In some parts of the area, the planting and harvest seasons have been advanced 10 and 8 days, respectively. When the new project has materialized, the production 1,900,000 hectares of cultivated land can be increased by over 400 catties per hectare and 2,500,000 hectares of virgin land can be opened up. The annual crop production can thus be raised by more than 2,480,000 tons. The benefit to be derived from by-products from the area and the added comfort to men and animals from the expected improvement in climate is beyond computation. The first 4,000 hectares of the project were planted in the spring of 1951.

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SCORES WASTE OF TIMBER RESOURCES -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 30 Aug 51

Excess cutting, depression of prices, and provincial attitudes toward national resources has been occurring for some time with respect to timber supplies in Kiangsi, Hunan, and parts of Kwangsi, according to a Hankow reporter of the Jen-min Jih-pao.

More than 140 percent of the usual annual cut for Central and South China has already been cut this year. The cut of fir (Cunninghamia sinensis) in Kiangsi has already exceeded an ordinary year's growth of replacement timber by from 30 to 160 percent. The timber cut in Hunan in 1949 - 1950, amounting to between one million and 1,200,000 cubic meters, is from 100 to 200 percent more than the usual cut for such a period. This excess cutting is the fault of certain local governments which wish to use the income from this timber to bolster their budgets and to expand purely local industries. This is contrary to national forestry policies and at the expense of national industries both within and without the area involved.

Because of the comparative cheapness of timber in the area, buyers from as far away as the Northeast, Northwest, and East China have been eagerly seeking supplies. This has resulted in a sharp rise in prices. The price in March and April 1951 had risen to 100 percent over that in the latter part of 1950. In Kiangsi, prices have gone up as much as 300 percent. However, the price for standing timber has not risen. Both the peasants and the consumers of timber are thus the losers. Profits of transport agencies are running as high as 100 and 200 percent. The price for the timber at point of origin in the Hsi-hua mountain area of Kiangsi is about 200,000 yuan per 1.2 cubic meters. After it reaches market points in the same province, prices are from 600,000 to 800,000 yuan for the same unit. Timber costing 100,000 yuan at the source in Hunan costs 600,000 to one million yuan in Changsha. Some logging control offices are realizing as much as 150 percent profit in their handling processes. Such possibilities lead to increased excess cutting.

In the three provinces under discussion, certain civil and military government organizations and schools have been carrying on excess cutting. In some areas such government agencies have been forcibly seizing standing timber and compelling the owners to sell at very low prices. A certain military unit in Central and South China has made 2 billion yuan from transporting and selling timber during the first half of the year.

While the Kiangsi Lumber Company has been selling more than 52,000 cubic meters of lumber in East China, local nonferrous mine industries have been unable to secure enough to meet their basic construction needs. Certain special administrative district governments have established sales offices in Hankow and are doing a flourishing business in timber to "supplement their budgets." The Liu-chou Special Administrative District Government in Kwangsi has set up a timber-purchasing office which forcibly buys timber at low prices. The commissioner of the district has paid no attention to the unified purchase program of the provincial government and has defied the deputy chief of the provincial government, who was sent out to investigate. The provincial program has thus been practically stalled in that area.

As a result of these activities on the part of government agencies, the people have lost heart and do not care what happens to the forests. In the first half of 1951, there were 236 forest fires in the three provinces under discussion. In 1950, forest fires in Kiangsi resulted in loss of timber worth 29,200,000,000 yuan; and in 4 months of 1951, 2,600,000,000 yuan. The causes of fires are often sabotage by landlords and special agents and carelessness of peasants in burning grass, but recently numerous cases have

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occurred, of poor, hired, and middle-class peasants who deliberate set fires. In some cases, they then rush in and cut the timber ahead of the fire and make away with it. Sometimes the loss from such cutting amounts to nine tenths of the total loss from both fire and cutting.

It is very apparent, then, that the callous and even illegal activities of both provincial and local governments in timber exploitation have resulted in greatly lowering the morale of the peasants with regard to protecting this important natural resource. Higher authorities should act quickly and check such malpractices.

OUTLINES ERRORS OF HUNAN AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY BUREAU -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 2 Sep 51

The Bureau of Agriculture and Forestry of Hunan Province has made considerable progress since its organization in the spring of 1951, but a number of serious errors in operation have appeared revealing that the leaders take too narrow and provincial a view of their responsibilities.

The timber in Hunan is 90 percent privately owned due to previous ownership or to distribution of landlord holdings during land reform. The confiscated timber lands have not, however, been distributed as yet, although they have been assigned. The Hunan Forestry Bureau is proceeding to cut timber on this undistributed land, giving the local agricultural associations 10 to 20 catties of rice per liang-ma [ $\frac{1}{1}$  liang-ma equals 1.2 cubic meters]. This payment is supposed to defray the expenses of reforestation.

In some cases, the bureau's agents have cut timber belonging to ancestral temples without even notifying the owners and without reimbursement. In another case, in spite of the protests of the owners, the loggers felled trees so close to an oil press that the building was damaged. An indemnity of only 100 tiles and 20,000 yuan was paid.

In another case, they cut from village land 1,000 trees specially grown for making boats and wooden shovels. They refused to pay for the timber and left the village without the income which it formerly had to support two schools, a bridge, and a ferryboat. In another case, the bureau cut the timber on a 5-mou tract belonging to a farmer. The bureau did not give any advance notice and refused to pay for the timber afterwards.

Such acts have caused the people to lose interest in protecting the forests and they permit the landlords to damage the forests and indulge in acts of sabotage themselves. By beating down the price paid for timber, or refusing any payment, the bureau is making 100 percent profit. The bureau is consuming the timber on provincial government projects and causing production delays in a number of mines outside the province that depend on Hunan timber.

ACCUSES KIANGSI STATE-OPERATED LUMBER COMPANY -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 21 Aug 51

A state-operated lumber company which is a subsidiary of the Office of Commerce of Kiangsi Province, is guilty of malpractice in lumbering operations. The company regards the lumbering business purely as a money-making proposition and completely disregards all the rules laid down by the government for an orderly, long-range exploitation of the timber resources of the province. For 1951, the company's goal for purchasing and cutting timber in Kiangsi is 984,000 cubic meters. This is three times the amount allotted by the Finance and

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Economic Committee of the Central and South China Government. In spite of this discrepancy, the Kiangsi lumber company is urging its branch companies to exceed this figure. Local cutters are given larger percentages for larger cuts, so they are boosting goals even above their allotments. For instance, the allotment for the Chi-an Special Administrative District is 168,000 cubic meters, but local operators are planning to cut 240,000 cubic meters.

In its efforts to use its income to bolster local government finances, the company is seeking outside cash markets as far afield as Shanghai and Tientsin. At the same time, it is failing to supply central government state-operated mines and railways with needed lumber. This failure is causing some industries to be in danger of having to close down.

The company refuses to permit the Coal and Construction Materials Company to have any part in the control of the Kiangsi market. It has raised prices to suit itself. The damage resulting from such a narrow and mercenary policy is readily apparent.

According to statistics the annual new timber production of Kiangsi is approximately 360,000 cubic meters. Since the company's cutting goal for 1951 is 250 percent of this amount, authorities on afforestation say that 6 or 7 years will be required on the basis of present afforestation plans to replace this one year's cut. Besides this, floods, erosion, and droughts that will result from this excessive denudation of land cover will seriously affect agricultural operations and threaten the livelihood of millions of farmers. The sum of 70 billion yuan the company hopes to realize on this year's operations will not approach the loss of farmers in crops and expense involved in repairing water conservancy projects resulting from the lumbering operations. The government of Central and South China and of Kiangsi Province should investigate and correct this situation. -- Lin Li, staff writer

CHARGES WANTON SLAUGHTER OF KWANGTUNG FORESTS -- Hong Kong, Hsing-tao Jih-pao, 4 Oct 51

Canton, 3 October (Special Correspondence) -- Certain local governments, and trading companies have lately been cutting timber without reference to quotas or the future of the forestry program. The local governments concerned excuse the action on the grounds of needing more funds for their budgets. In the Hsi-chiang Special Administrative District over 5 million trees were cut last year. This was 166 percent of the annual replacement growth in that area. The Kwangtung branch of the Coal and Construction Company has purchased more than 100,000 cubic meters of timber above its quota in certain areas with good transport facilities. The Lo-ch'ang Hsien People's Government sold over 200,000 fir trees, which had been confiscated from landlords, to the I-lin Hsien timber office in Hunan. In May, the Construction Materials Company and the Trading Company of the same hsien had plans to cut and sell to the Coal Construction Company 250,000 fir trees. However, this deal was stopped by the Special Administrative District authorities.

Under pretense of preparing highway bridge timber, the people's government of Yang-ch'un Hsien cut more than 200,000 fir trees. The above examples provide clear evidence that the timber resources of Kwangtung province are being greatly endangered, especially the timber confiscated from landlords, which should be distributed to the peasants, but is being exploited by the local governments and the state companies.

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